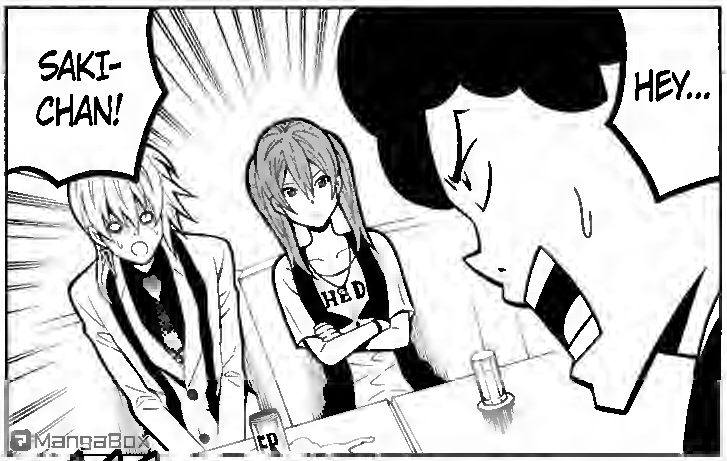

31ST NIGHT: MARCO THE PHOENIX

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VKS Services, LLC / SKY Japan Inc.

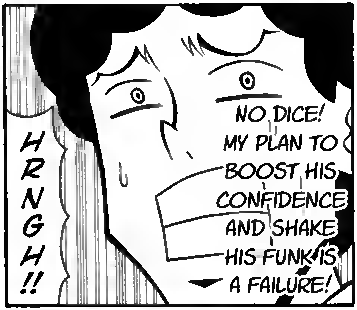
BAM

A WONDER-FUL HOST!
MARCO-SAN IS ACTUALLY
AS A HOST, I RESPECT AND ADMIRE HIM ABOVE ALL OTHERS!
ONE TIME, HE COVERED FOR ME BY RUINING HIS OWN CLOTHES!
HIS SERVICE ETIQUETTE IS FLAW-LESS!
HIS FORM AND MOVEMENTS ARE SO GRACEFUL- EASILY THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF ALL THE HOSTS HERE!

This story is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual persons, places, or events is purely coincidental.

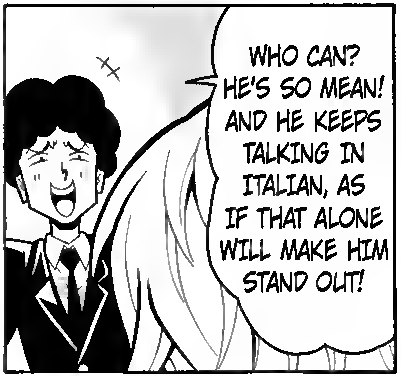
WHAT A PIG!
HE'S COMPLETELY DEBASED HIMSELF! HE REALLY IS A PIG NOW!
lap
BEER
lap
CAN YOU STILL SAY THAT AFTER SEEING THIS?

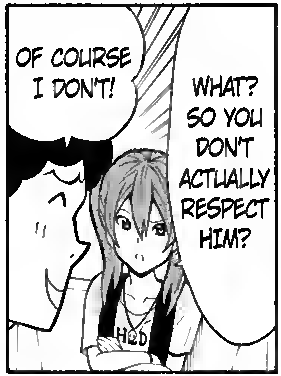
IN THIS SITUATION,
I'LL HAVE TO RESORT TO...

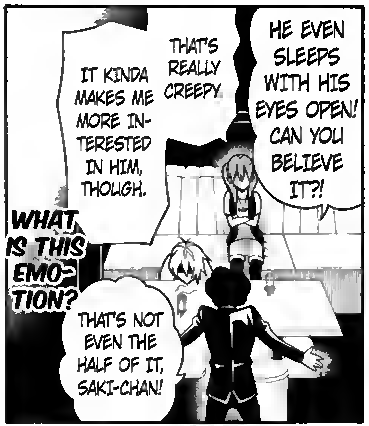

HRNGH!!
NO DICE! MY PLAN TO BOOST HIS CONFIDENCE AND SHAKE HIS FUNK IS A FAILURE!

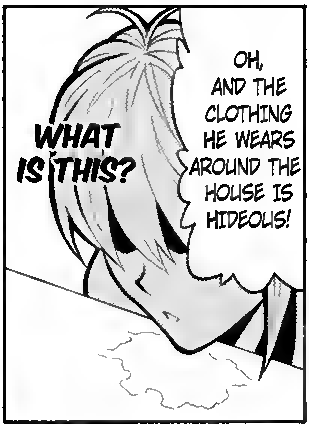
I'LL SAY STUFF HE CAN'T HELP BUT GET MAD AT!
SORRY IN ADVANCE, MARCO-SAN!
FLIP-FLOP
JUST KIDDING! TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, HE IS JUST A PIG!

lap...


WHO CAN? HE'S SO MEAN! AND HE KEEPS TALKING IN ITALIAN, AS IF THAT ALONE WILL MAKE HIM STAND OUT!


OF COURSE I DON'T!
WHAT? SO YOU DON'T ACTUALLY RESPECT HIM?

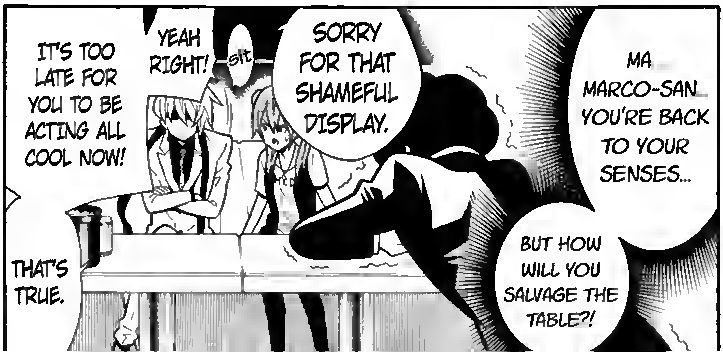

HE EVEN SLEEPS WITH HIS EYES OPEN! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?!
THAT'S REALLY CREEPY.
IT KINDA MAKES ME MORE INTERESTED IN HIM, THOUGH.
WHAT IS THIS EMOTION?
THAT'S NOT EVEN THE HALF OF IT, SAKI-CHAN!


OH, AND THE CLOTHING HE WEARS AROUND THE HOUSE IS HIDEOUS!
WHAT IS THIS?

PLEASE, TELL ME!
MY GUARDIAN...
SO WHAT IS THIS TREMBLING IN MY HEART?
THIS FEELING, STIRRED FROM THE DEPTHS OF MY SOUL?
I ALLOWED THE MISTAKE, SO IT'S ONLY PROPER THAT I PAY THE PENALTY!
TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT WHO IS TRASH-TALKING YOU.
THAT'S EASY, MAR-CHAN.
IS THIS LITTLE JUSSY!
AND, OF ALL THINGS, THIS LITTLE PIGGY ONCE--
KOBA-YASHI ...!

HEAR-
ING
THOSE
WORDS
FROM
SOME-
ONE
LIKE
YOU
IS AN
INSULT
I WILL
NOT
BEAR!
GRAB
AHH!
THUD
GECK!

THE NOBLE FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT
I'LL NOT BE MOCKED BY ONE OF THE LOWEST LIFE-FORMS ON THE PLANET!
BAM
MARCO HAS RETURNED!

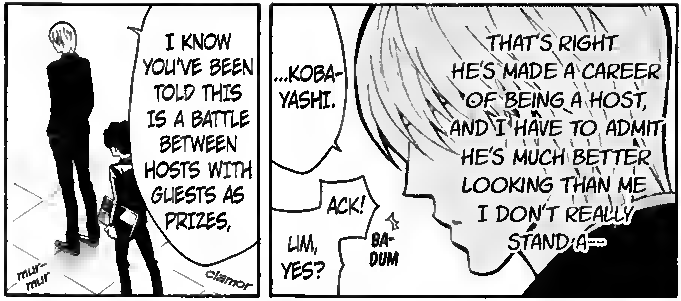

MA MARCO-SAN YOU'RE BACK TO YOUR SENSES...
SORRY FOR THAT SHAMEFUL DISPLAY.
YEAH RIGHT!
SIT...
IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU TO BE ACTING ALL COOL NOW!
BUT HOW WILL YOU SALVAGE THE TABLE?!
THAT'S TRUE.

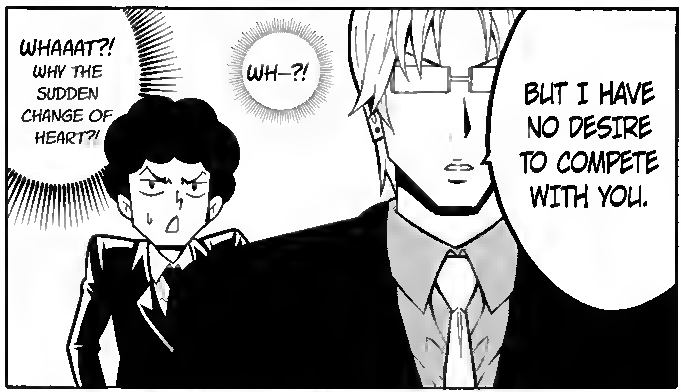
I HAVE NO REASON TO BE ANY-THING BUT HONEST WITH YOU.
YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN ME AT MY WORST.
WHY DON'T YOU UNLOAD THE BURDEN YOU'RE CARRYING,
GLUG GLUG
HUH?
BUT NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL?! YOU DON'T KNOW ANY-THING!
AND SHOW ME THE REAL SAKI?
THUNK

I DO.
IF NOTHING HAPPENED, WHY ARE YOU HERE ALONE?
!!
I ONLY REMEMBER THE REST IN BITS AND PIECES.
WHILE SAKI-CHAN TALKED TO MARCO-SAN, SHE ALTERNATELY
GOT ANGRY
AND CRIED
BY THE TIME I'D MADE A RECOVERY,
SHE'D SHOWN US HER TRUE FACE.
AND THEN..

THE MASTER BECAME THE SLAVE.
DO YOU LIKE IT, SAKI?
OINK!
GUEST
MARCO-SAN REALLY IS AN AMAZING HOST!
ADZMA
DVD
...
OF COURSE, LASTLY,
I GET STUCK WITH THIS ASSHOLE.
TO BE HONEST, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF IF I LOSE TO HIM OF ALL PEOPLE!
I WILL ABSOLUTELY WIN THAT FAREWELL! BUT

HOW COOL HE LOOKED DOING IT!
...IN SPITE OF THOSE THOUGHTS, I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK BACK TO JUSTIN SINGING THE LAST SONG, AND I REMEMBER


I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN TOLD THIS IS A BATTLE BETWEEN HOSTS WITH GUESTS AS PRIZES,
murmur
clamor
...KOBAYASHI.
ACK!
LIM, YES?
BA-DUM
THAT'S RIGHT. HE'S MADE A CAREER OF BEING A HOST, AND I HAVE TO ADMIT HE'S MUCH BETTER LOOKING THAN ME. I DON'T REALLY STAND A--



TO BE CONTINUED IN 32ND NIGHT: TAKEN IN BY HIS GLASSES